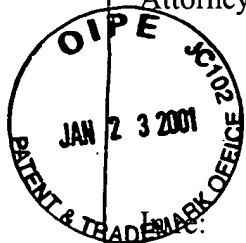


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Attorney's Docket No. 8190-349

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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2838

Applicant: Thomas H. Lynch et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/535,391  
Filed: March 24, 2000  
For: STRING SWITCHING APPARATUS  
AND ASSOCIATED METHOD

Group Art Unit:  
Examiner:

A. Berhanu

January 12, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

### AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 12, 2000, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Title:

Following "METHOD", please insert "FOR CONTROLLABLY CONNECTING THE OUTPUT OF A SOLAR ARRAY STRING TO A RESPECTIVE POWER BUS".

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-4 and amend independent Claims 5 and 14 as follows:

1. (Amended) A string switching apparatus for controllably connecting a plurality of solar array strings to one of an output power bus and an auxiliary power bus, the string switching apparatus comprising:

a plurality of shunt regulators electrically connected in parallel with respective solar array strings, each shunt regulator capable of alternately shunting an output of the respective solar array string and delivering the output of the respective solar array string to one of the output power bus and the auxiliary power bus;

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